



South Carolina

Weekly Weather and Crop Progress Report

Cooperating with Clemson University
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Clemson University
SC State Climatology Office
Farm Service Agency



GENERAL

The remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole brought substantial amounts of rain and high winds to the coastal counties and the eastern midlands. The storm system helped to further alleviate dry conditions but did bring some damage to the agriculture industry. Farmers reported 20% of light to moderate damage and 8% of heavy to severe damage resulting from the storm. Cooler temperatures were also observed. For the first time since July 4th, South Carolina's average temperature for the weeklong period was below normal. The heavy rainfall stalled harvesting activities for many growers, but the moisture is expected to encourage the planting of small grains and winter grazings. Soil moisture conditions improved this past week and were reportedly 7% very short, 18% short, 63% adequate and 12% surplus. With wet weather, there was a statewide average of 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork in South Carolina.

FIELD CROPS

Nearly all **CORN** had been harvested by the end of the week. Eighty-eight percent of **COTTON** had bolls open and 18% of the crop had been harvested, ahead of historical numbers. Some cotton was exposed to water damage in the areas that received the heaviest rainfall. Conditions were 3% very poor, 13% poor, 31% fair, 47% good and 6% excellent. **PEANUT** harvest remained well ahead of the average for this time of year. Some growers were concerned about the quality of their peanuts due to the increased moisture. Conditions were reportedly 3% poor, 33% fair, 56% good and 8% excellent. Forty-eight percent of **SOYBEANS** had turned color and one quarter of the crop had dropped leaves. Soybeans were just beginning to be harvested. Conditions showed some signs of improvement and were 5% very poor, 19% poor, 41% fair, 34% good and 1% excellent. All **TOBACCO** had reportedly been harvested for 2010. Eighty-eight percent of tobacco stalks had been destroyed. **WINTER GRAZINGS** had just begun to emerge. Twelve percent of **WINTER WHEAT** had been planted and 2% had emerged.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

LIVESTOCK conditions improved and were reportedly 2% very poor, 5% poor, 30% fair and 63% good. Likewise, **PASTURES** improved and were 11% very poor, 18% poor, 49% fair and 22% good.

Crop Progress for Week Ending October 3, 2010

Crop and Stage	2010	2009	5-Yr Avg	Crop and Stage	2010	2009	5-Yr Avg
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, Harvested	97	98	97	Soybeans, Mature	11	10	6
Cotton, Bolls Opened	88	84	81	Soybeans, Harvested	3	3	1
Cotton, Harvested	18	10	9	Tobacco, Harvested	100	100	100
Oats, Planted	8	6	3	Tobacco, Stalks Destroyed	88	97	90
Peanuts, Harvested	42	28	28	Winter Grazings, Planted	28	30	33
Soybeans, Pods Set	98	100	98	Winter Grazings, Emerged	3	0	1
Soybeans, Turned Color	48	43	39	Winter Wheat, Planted	12	8	4
Soybeans, Leaves Dropped	25	16	14	Winter Wheat, Emerged	2	0	0

Condition for Week Ending October 3, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cotton	3	13	31	47	6	Peanuts	0	3	33	56	8
Livestock	2	5	30	63	0	Soybeans	5	19	41	34	1
Pasture	11	18	49	22	0						

South Carolina Weekly Weather Summary for the Week Ending October 3, 2010

Heavy rains continued into Monday morning and by sunrise several locations had totaled 24-hour amounts of between two and four inches. Hemingway reported a Monday morning measurement of 4.66 inches. All-day rains along the coastal counties resulted in widespread ponding on rural and urban properties. Energy from a Florida Key’s and short-lived Tropical Storm Nicole reformed as an extra-tropical feature southeast of Charleston on Wednesday. The surface low entered an elongated trough, positioned over the eastern seaboard, and tracked into the South Carolina coast near Georgetown. Shortly after 1:00 a.m. on Thursday morning, tropical storm force conditions began to affect the Grand Strand. Springmaid Pier recorded a peak sustained wind of 41 mph from the south-southeast at 2:54 a.m. The Georgetown Airport measured a peak wind gust of 64 mph at 3:15 a.m. The Marion and Marlboro County airports noted minimum barometric pressure values of 29.37 inches of mercury. By Thursday morning, Bennettsville had received 5.16 inches of rain during the 24-hour period. At the same time, Florence, Cheraw and Marion reported rainfall totals of over four and one-half inches. Although Thursday’s late afternoon sunshine began appearing over the western counties there were still a few light showers rotating southeastward around the exiting storm. The heaviest multi-day rainfall total was measured at N Inlet, Winyah Bay Georgetown, with 10.43 inches. September ended with rainfall amounts ranging from just 1.74 inches at Pelion to 10.71 inches at the Georgetown County AP. Partly sunny skies returned on Saturday with much cooler temperatures. On Saturday morning, the Upstate was the first to report minimum temperatures in the middle 40’s. Beaufort shared in the fall airmass Sunday morning with a low temperature of 60 degrees. Light showers edged into the northern counties Sunday afternoon while locations to the east observed mostly sunny, mild weather. Saluda reported a Sunday high temperature of 80 degrees. The state average temperature for the seven-day period was one degree below normal.

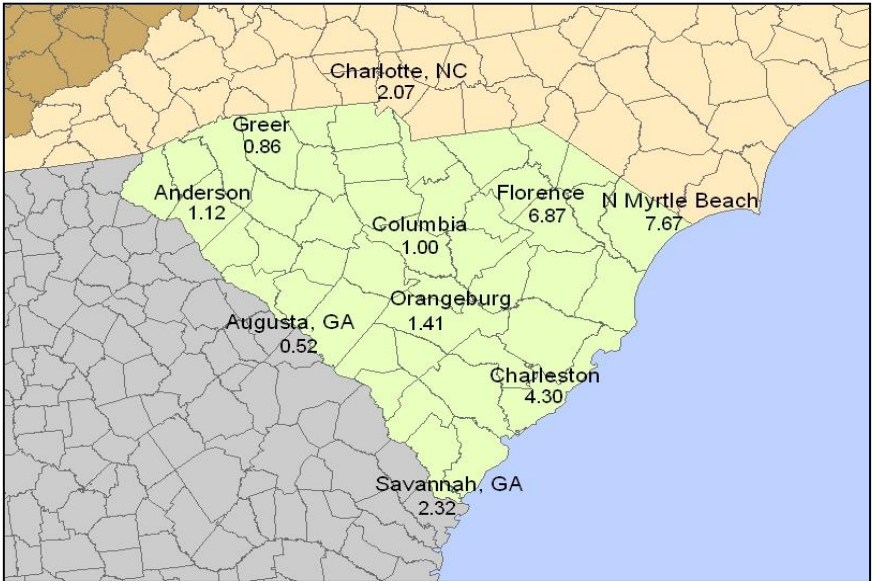
The highest official temperature reported was 85 degrees at Ft. Moultrie on September 27. The lowest official temperature reported was 45 degrees at Table Rock and Walhalla on October 2 and at Cedar Creek on October 3. The heaviest official 24-hour rain reported was 5.18 inches at N Inlet, Winyah Bay Georgetown ending at 7:00 a.m. on September 28. The state average rainfall for the period was 2.7 inches.

SOIL: 4-inch depth soil temperature: Columbia 74 degrees, Charleston 75 degrees.
RIVERS AND SURF: South Carolina river stages were near to above normal. Ocean water temperatures at Springmaid Pier Myrtle Beach were reported at 76 degrees.

Precipitation

Location	Total for Week	Total for 2010	Deviation from Average
Greer	0.86	36.48	-2.6
Anderson	1.12	32.70	-3.5
Columbia	1.00	30.81	-8.6
Orangeburg	1.41	36.41	-3.0
Charlotte, NC	2.07	32.15	-1.5
Augusta, GA	0.52	25.47	-10.4
Florence	6.87	39.95	3.9
N Myrtle Beach	7.67	37.03	0.5
Charleston	4.30	53.96	11.0
Savannah, GA	2.32	33.81	-7.8

Weekly rainfall totals this period ending midnight Sunday.



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